(c) whether it is a fact that after implementation of this report, unemployment would increase to such an extent that it would become difficult for the people to survive and therefore, a demand has been made to reject this report; and

(d) if so, Government's decision on rejection or implementation of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government had constituted a Task Force on Employment Opportunities under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, member, Planning Commission, Task Force has submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission on 2nd July 2001.

(b) Summary of Recommendations of the Report of Task Force on Employment Opportunities is Annexure. The full Report of the Task Force has been placed in Parliament Library (Call No. 331.1R/P1 and Class No. 331.1R). [See Appendix 194 Annexure No. 7]

(c) and (d) The Report has not yet been examined by Planning Commission. A Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year over the 10th Plan Period has been constituted by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Members, Planning Commission, whose terms of reference include this work also.

Speedy development of backward regions

561. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives to ensure speedy development of the identified backward regions in the country by providing additional resources to cover the backlog of development during the current plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the regions identified for the purpose and the funds allocated during the plan period along with the physical achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Hence, Planning Commission has not

identified any area as backward *per se*. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward areas through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central Assistance.

Further, various programmes have been formulated to deal with the special problems of identified areas such as the Tribal Sub-Plan, the Border Area Development Programme, Hill Areas Development Programme, Desert Development Programme/Drought Prone Areas Programme etc. These programmes use the special characteristics of the particular development problem to identify the areas and fix the levels of allocation. Further, there are a number of programmes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, watershed development, social security and land reforms to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and to assist people below the poverty line. These programmes use poverty/poverty related indicators for the allocation of funds.

In order to encourage speedy industrialization and for dispersal of industries in industrially backward areas, Category A and Category B districts have been identifed for the purpose of income tax concessions under 80-IA of the Income Tax Act. In additional there are various schemes for infrastructure development of the industrial sector such as the Growth Centres Scheme, Scheme for Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres, etc.

In addition, successive Finance Commissions have laid stress on backwardness in the formula for determining inter-state shares of Central Tax proceeds. In particular, the weight of the inverse of per capita State income criterion takes note of backwardness. The Eleventh Finance Commission assigned a weight of 62.5 per cent for its aware period, 2000—05, which is higher than the weight assigned by previous Commissions. In addition, the criteria of 'Area' and 'Index of Infrastructure' also help backward States. In general, Larger area and a lower development of infrastructure are strongly associated with backwardness and recognizing this, the Eleventh Finance Commission assigned a weight of 7.5 per cent each, up from 5 per cent recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. Assessing the requirement of revenue-gap grants is also an exercise which accords special consideration to backward States. States, which are relatively more backward are not able to raise as much of their own revenues as better off States. This gets built into the assessment of revenue-gap grants.

Finance Commission also take particular note of specific requirements of each State during their visits. Such requirements are met through recommendations of grants for special problems and upgradation and thus provide an opportunity to backward States to put forth their claims.

Schemes of Himachal Pradesh

†562. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of Himachal Pradesh which are pending with Government for approval;

(b) the action taken thereon by Government so far; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken on these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Various schemes, relating to Agriculture, Industries, Roads and Bridges, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Food and Supplies, Education, Youth Services and Sports, Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Police Department, Environment Project and Pollution Control Board are under process/consideration with various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Necessary action is being taken on them by these Ministries/Departments.

(c) As a number of Departments/Ministries are involved, it is not possible to indicate a precise time-schedule.

Economic projections of Tenth Plan

†563. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basis for economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan are not in line with the annual budget estimates of the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the basis fixed for the economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the reasons for not taking the budget estimates as its basis?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.